

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Board of Commissioners and Officers
OF THE
ALABAMA INSTITUTION
FOR THE
DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND.

For the Year Ending September 30th, 1876,

TO THE GOVERNOR.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
W. W. SCREWS, STATE PRINTER.

1876.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Commissioners and Officers

OF THE

ALABAMA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND,

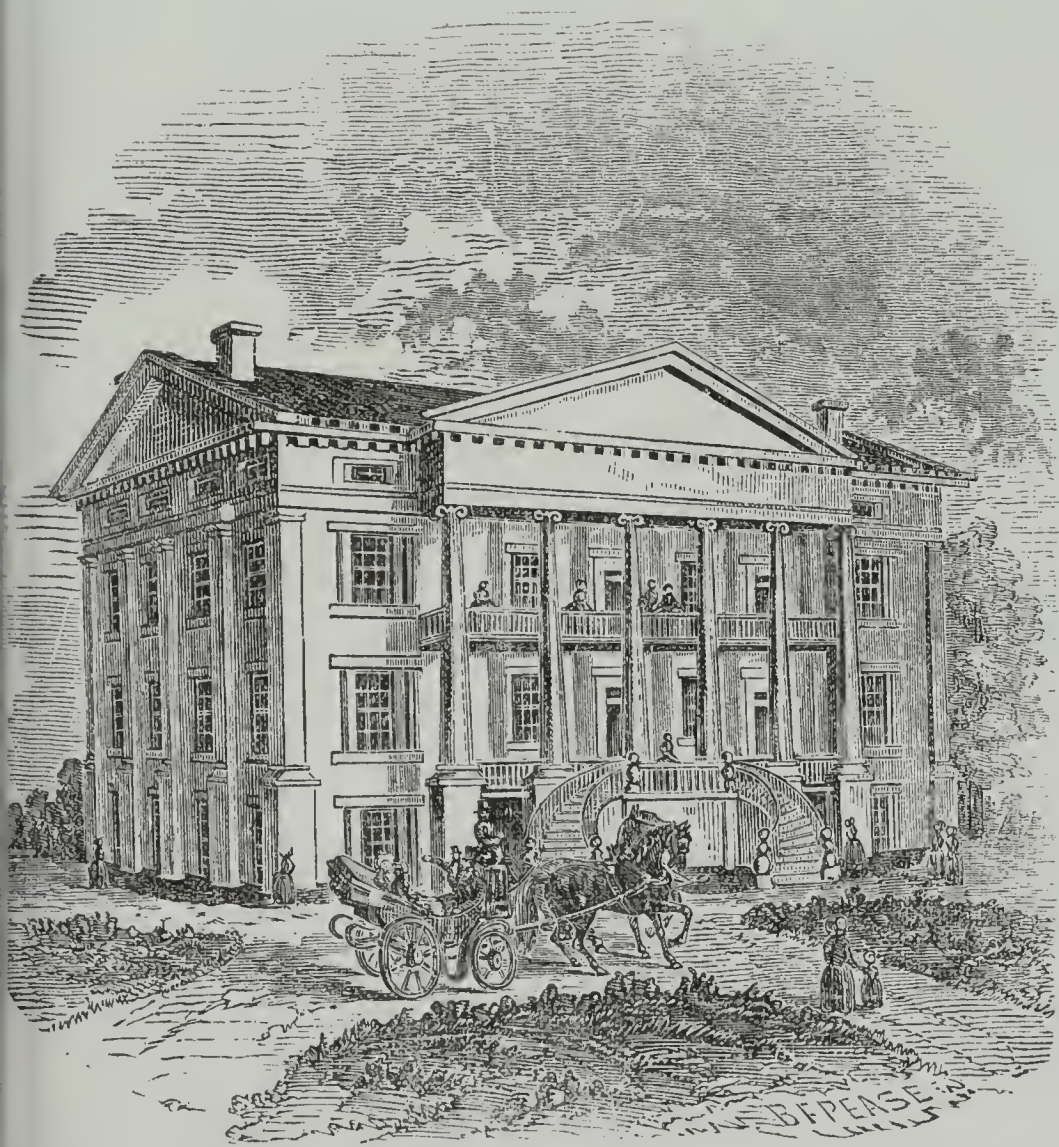
For the Year Ending September 30th, 1876,

TO THE GOVERNOR.

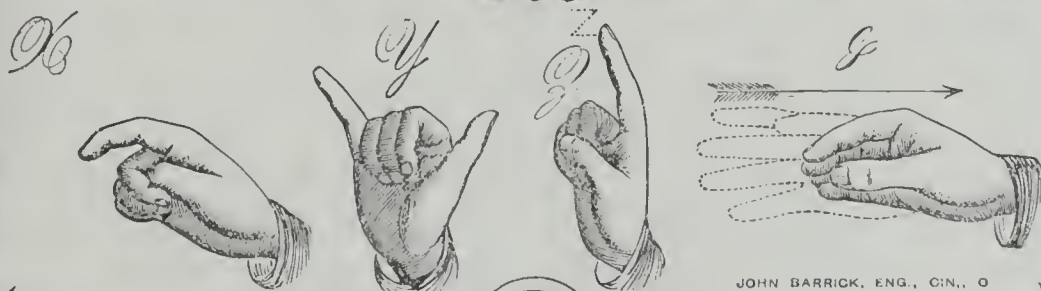
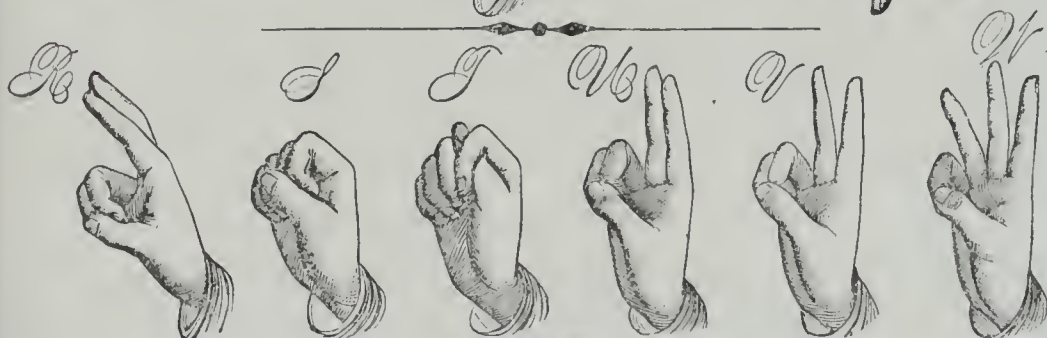
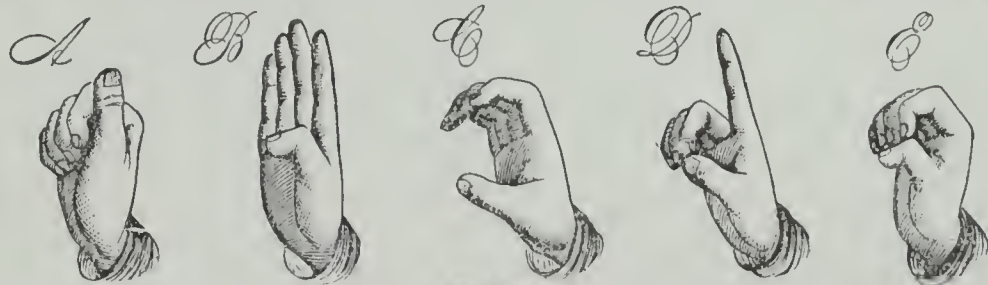
MONTGOMERY, ALA.:

W. W. SCREWS, STATE PRINTER.

1876.



Alabama Institution D. D. & B.



JOHN BARRICK, ENG., CINCINNATI, O.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,

HON. GEORGE S. HOUSTON, Ex-officio,
MARCUS H. CRUIKSHANK, President,
WILLIAM TAYLOR, M. D.
ALONZO G. STOREY, Treasurer,
GEORGE S. WALDEN, Esq.
GREEN T. MCAFEE, Esq.
CHARLES PELHAM, Esq.
A. BINGHAM.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

JO. H. JOHNSON, Principal and Secretary, B. C.
GEORGE M. CRUIKSHANK, Teacher of the Blind.
EMILY A. JOHNSON, Teacher.
JEHU A. HOGE, “
WILLIAM S. JOHNSON, “
MARY E. TONEY “
EMMA OMBERG, Teacher of Music.
O. J. HAMILTON, Matron.
DR. J. C. KNOX, Consulting Physician.

J. A. HOGE, }
W. S. JOHNSON, } Instructors in Mechanical Department,

REPORT.

OFFICE BOARD OF COMM'RS OF ALABAMA INSTITUTION }
FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND, }
TALLADEGA, ALA., Nov. 6, 1876. }

To His Excellency George S. Houston,
Governor of Alabama:

SIR—I have the honor to submit herewith the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners and Officers of the Alabama Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.

The reports of the several officers of the Institution show fully its condition, its progress and its wants. To these I respectfully refer for details of receipts and disbursements, and the general condition of the Institution.

The Principal has been endeavoring, by a system of rigid economy, to save from the annual appropriation a sum sufficient to provide a suitable kitchen and laundry, much needed, without calling for a special appropriation for that purpose.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

M. H. CRUIKSHANK,
President Board of Comm'rs.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

Hon. M. H. Cruikshank, President Board of Commr's
of Alabama Institution for Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:

SIR—I have the honor herewith to submit the annual report of the Principal and Treasurer of this Institution for the year ending September 30, 1876, together with a copy of the

report of the Joint Committee of the last General Assembly, charged with the duty of examining into and reporting upon the condition of the Institution—and also report of the Visiting Committee, appointed by yourself, to attend the closing exercises of the Institution in July last.

JO. H. JOHNSON,
Secretary, B. C.

Talladega, Ala., Oct. 27, 1876.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

*To Board of Commissioners of Alabama Institution
for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:*

GENTLEMEN—I beg leave to submit the following brief record of the past year's work.

No changes have been made in the corps of teachers since last report. The Board having authorized me to secure, if practicable, the services of a suitable instructor in Drawing, I did, on the 17th of February last, secure the services of Prof. A. Zielinski, who taught a class of our mute pupils in drawing until the close of the session in July.

Several of the pupils evinced a talent for drawing, and we regret that we were unable to continue instruction in this branch.

The number of blind pupils being so small, we have not felt authorized to employ a teacher in the department of handicraft. The blind boys do a little work in the chair bottoming line occasionally. Work in the shoe shop has been carried on regularly by the mute boys, and quite a number of them now do good work. Instruction in this shop has been given gratuitously by the teachers, Messrs. Hoge and Johnson, and by the advanced pupils. No master workman has been employed.

The work in the school rooms has been thoroughly and faithfully done, and discipline has been maintained with little trouble.

The health of the pupils has been better than ever before,

not a single case of serious or protracted illness having occurred. In a family so large as ours has been, this is remarkable, and speaks well for our location, to say the least of it.

NUMBER OF PUPILS.

Whole number in attendance since date of last report, 49.	
Number of mutes.....39	Number of males.....28
Number of blind.....10	Number of females.....21
49	49

Every exertion has been made to secure the attendance of a larger number. We are not authorized to pay traveling expenses, and have not felt at liberty to send a paid agent into the field to hunt them out and gather them into the institution. We have advertised in the papers in every part of the State, and have through Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, the Baptist centennial agent for the State, made known the provision made by the State for her mute and blind children, and used every other available means to accomplish the end desired.

The small number of pupils is discouraging to us and embarrassing to your honorable body, who feel it to be your duty to provide suitable facilities for the instruction of all who ought to and might be here.

The following exhibit shows what amount of money has come into my hands and how it has been disbursed.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

There was left in my hands, or rather to my credit, in the hands of the treasurer, at the date of last report, the sum of (\$600.96) six hundred dollars and ninety-six cents. Received since then and up to 30th of September, 1876, the sum of (\$8,622.87) eight thousand six hundred and twenty-two dollars and eighty-seven cents. Total amount (9,223.83) nine thousand two hundred and twenty-three dollars and eighty-three cents. Of this sum I have expended (\$8,184.14) eight thousand one hundred and eighty-four dollars and fourteen cents. This includes \$269.79, amount paid for clothing for

the indigent pupils—amount paid salary of drawing teacher \$192.50, and every other expenditure on account of the institution except salaries of teachers, paid by the treasurer and insurance on the main building. Deduct from amount paid out by me, the last mentioned expenditures, \$462.29, and the actual amount of current expenses of the institution for the year has been \$7,721.85. The institution holds warrants against the several counties for the amounts paid out for clothing for their indigent pupils.

I append a table to this report showing at a glance receipts and disbursements, and also table showing total expenses of the institution for the year, including salaries, clothing account, &c.

The treasurer's report shows the exact condition of the institution fund at the close of the year ending September 30, except that the salaries for the quarter ending at that date had not been paid, but are included in my statement of total expenses of the year. Deduct salaries for third quarter, and the cash balance in treasurer's hands is \$2,831.08, and in principal's hands \$1,039.69. Total on hand and unexpended \$3,870.77.

The only outstanding indebtedness of the institution is amount of bill of books due American Printing House for the blind, \$70.80; and small *bill not rendered* due Virginia Institution for books for the blind, and bill of \$52 due for Babcock's fire extinguisher.

We have practiced rigid economy during the year, spending nothing unnecessarily, hoping to save from our annual support fund for this year and the next, an amount sufficient to build a laundry and refit our kitchen, procure a new cooking range, and make some alterations in our girls' dormitory. The rapid appreciation of the State obligations, encourages us to believe that we will be able to secure these much needed improvements during the next year.

The property of the institution—buildings, grounds and furniture—is in good condition. The land under cultivation is improving, and yields us good crops. The lawn, grove and flower yards present a neat and tasteful appearance. In one

more year we hope to complete the grading and drainage on the whole premises.

The main building is insured in two responsible companies for \$17,000.

Neither one of the commissioners, nor myself, attended either the Conference of Principals of Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb. nor the Association of Instructors of the Blind, both of which bodies assembled in Philadelphia during the past summer. We regret that we were not represented there, the more so, since we see from the printed proceedings that many important subjects were under consideration and discussed by the prominent men of our profession.

It was determined by the Association of Teachers of the Blind, to petition the Congress of the United States for a sum of money, the interest of which, if appropriated, will be used in printing embossed books for the use of the blind, and distributing them to the several institutions of the country according to the number of pupils in each. The memorial will be presented to Congress at the next session.

We hope it will meet the approval and receive the support of our members in that honorable body. The printing is to be done by the "American Printing House for the Blind," an institution already in existence and doing a great work; located in Louisville, Ky.. in connection with the Kentucky State Institution for the Blind.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I but speak the honest sentiments of all connected with the institution, when I express the deep obligation we are under to the Board of Commissioners for their unflagging zeal in the interest of the institution, and their uniform courtesy and kindness to us.

Craving God's blessing on you and upon the institution, and asking His guidance for the future,

I am your most obedient servant,

J. H. JOHNSON,

Principal.

October 27, 1876.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

Jo. H. Johnson, Principal, in account with the Alabama Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.

DR.

To amount on hand at date of last report.....	\$ 600 96
Received since to September 30th, 1876.....	8,622 87
	\$9,223 83

CR.

By current expenses for the year ending Sept. 30, 1876	\$7,721 85
By amount paid for clothing pupils.....	269 79
By " " drawing teacher.....	192 50
By " on hand to balance.....	1,039 69
	\$9,223 83
Amount in Principal's hands.....	\$1,039 69

TOTAL EXPENDITURES.

For current expenses, &c., as above.....	\$8,184 14
For salaries.....	4,737 50
For insurance.....	215 50
	\$13,137 14

Discount on State obligations and other expenses of Treasurer are accounted for in his report.

J. H. JOHNSON,
Principal.

Audited, compared and approved October 7th, 1876.

G. T. McAFEE,
W. TAYLOR,
Auditing Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Alabama Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind, in account with A. G. Storey, Treasurer, from October 1st, 1875, to the 30th September, 1876.

1875.

Oct.	12.	To amount paid M. H. Cruikshank, President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss E. Omberg, v. No. 1.....	150 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Jo. H. Johnson, Principal, v. No. 2.	2,000 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Mrs. E. A. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 3	125 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Jo. H. Johnson, principal, as salary, v. No. 4.....	375 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss O. J. Hamilton, matron, v. No. 5	100 00
"	23.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of R. R. Asbury, teacher, v. No. 6.....	312 50
"	23.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of W. S. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 7....	118 75
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. A. Hoge, teacher, v. No. 8.....	118 75
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss M. E. Toney, teacher, v. No. 9.	75 00
Dec.	17.	To amount discount on \$2,500 State obligations, sold in Montgomery at 81 cents.....	475 00
"	22.	To amount discount on \$1,000 State obligations sold in Montgomery at 82 cents.....	180 00
"	28.	To amount discount on \$305 State obligations, sold at 87½ cents.....	38 13
"	31.	To amount discount on \$1,735 State obligations, sold at 90 cents.....	173 50
		To amount discount on \$950 State obligations, sold at 90 cents.....	95 00

1876.

Jan.	8.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, v. No. 10..	2,000 00
------	----	--	----------

	10.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Geo. M. Cruikshank, teacher, v. No. 11.....	150 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss E. Omberg, teacher, v. No. 12.	150 00
	22.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss M. E. Toney, teacher, v. No. 13	75 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of W. S. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 14...	118 75
	31.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Andrew Lawson, insurance on building 1876, v. No. 15.....	107 25
Feb.	3.	To amount discount on \$95 State obligations, sold at 90 cents.....	6 50
		To amount discount on \$210 State obligations, sold at 87½ cents.....	26 25
	4.	To amount discount on \$1,235 State obligations, sold at 85 cents.....	185 25
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of T. N. Anglin, insurance on building, 1876, v. No. 16.....	108 25
	14.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss O. J. Hamilton, matron, v. No. 17.....	100 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, as salary, v. No. 18.....	375 00
Mar.	7.	To amount discount on \$1,000 State obligations, sold at 85 cents.....	150 00
April	12.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss E. Omberg, teacher, v. No. 19..	112 50
	15.	To amount discount on \$4,500 State obligations, sold in Montgomery at 86½.....	601 88
	17.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, v. No. 20.	2,163 47
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Geo. M. Cruikshank, teacher, v. No. 21.....	150 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Mrs. E. A. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 22	125 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. A. Hoge, teacher, v. No. 23.....	118 75
May	5.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss M. E. Toney, v. No. 24.....	75 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of W. S. Johnson, v. No. 25... ..	118 75
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss O. J. Hamilton, matron, v. No. 26.....	100 00

		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. A. Hoge, teacher, v. No. 27.....	118 75
"	8.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, as salary, v. No. 28.....	375 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Mrs. E. A. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 29.....	125 00
July	10.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss E. Omberg, teacher, v. No. 30.	112 50
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Geo. M. Cruikshank, teacher, v. No. 31.....	150 00
"	11.	To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, v. No. 32.	2,459 40
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss O. J. Hamilton, matron, v. No. 33.....	100 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. H. Johnson, principal, salary, v. No. 34.....	375 00
"	27.	To amount paid A. G. Storey's expenses to, in and from Montgomery to draw funds.....	16 80
		To amount paid for telegrams to and from Mobile, nego- tiating sale of State obligations.....	2 70
		To amount paid express charges on \$4,500 to Mobile, v. No. 35.....	4 50
		To amount discount on \$4,500 State obligations sold in Mobile at 85½ cents.....	652 50
		To amount express charges on \$2,000 currency from Mobile, v. No. 36.....	3 75
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Mrs. E. A. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 37.....	125 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of Miss M. E. Toney, teacher, v. No. 38	75 00
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of J. A. Hoge, teacher, v. No. 39.....	118 75
		To amount paid President Board of Commissioners, draft in favor of W. S. Johnson, teacher, v. No. 40...	118 75
		To amount paid M. G. Rhodes express charges on \$4,500 Nov. 17, 1875, v. No. 41.....	6 00
Sept.	30.	To amount on hand in currency.....	4,006 08
			<hr/> 20,399 71

CONTRA.

1875.		
Oct. 1.	By amount on hand.....	2,399 71
Nov. 17.	By amount received from State Treasurer in State obligations.....	4,500 00
1876.		
Jan. 8.	By amount received from State Treasurer in State obligations.....	4,500 00
April 15.	By amount received from State Treasurer in State obligations.....	4,500 00
July 25.	By amount received from State Treasurer in State obligations.....	4,500 00
		<hr/> 20,399 71
Sept. 30.	By currency on hand.....	4,006 08

Oct. 7, 1876. We have examined, carefully, and compared the vouchers of the foregoing treasurer's report with the same, and find it to be correct.

G. T. McAFEE,

Chairman.

W. TAYLOR,

Auditing Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We are indebted to the following papers for copies of their journals free of charge :

1. Daily Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.
2. Argus, Selma, Ala.
3. Cycle, Mobile, Ala.
4. Beacon, Greensboro, Ala.
5. Shelby Sentinel, Columbiana, Ala.
6. Shelby Guide, Montevallo, Ala.
7. Iron Age, Birmingham, Ala.
8. Enterprise, Cave Spring, Ga.
9. Tri-Weekly Courier, Rome, Ga.
10. Reporter & Watchtower, Talladega, Ala.
11. Mountain Home, " "
12. Alabama Templar, " "
13. Deaf Mutes Journal, Mexico, N. Y.
14. Mutes Chronicle, 2 copies, Columbus, Ohio.
15. Mirror, 2 copies, Flint, Michigan.
16. Deaf Mute, 2 copies, Danville, Ky.
17. Goodson Gazette, Staunton, Va.
18. Mutes Journal, Omaha, Neb.
19. Index, Colorado Springs.

The Selma, Rome & Dalton; the South & North, and the Montgomery & Eufaula Rail Roads, kindly passed our pupils over their respective roads at half rates at the close of the session in July.

We have again to thank the liberal firm of Messrs. R. R. and P. W. Hunley, for their generous donation of strawberries to our pupils. We were frequently and bountifully supplied with delicious berries from their gardens during the past season.

Principal McCoy, of the Virginia Institution, has placed us under lasting obligations for accommodations in procuring additions to our supply of books for the blind.

Rev. J. J. D. Renfroe, Centennial Agent of the Baptists of the State, has kindly represented the interests of the Institution whenever an opportunity offered, free of charge to us.

To the ladies and gentlemen composing the visiting committee, whose report accompanies this report, we feel under lasting obligations.

LIST OF PUPILS.

DEAF MUTES.

NO.	NAME.	COUNTY.	MUTE.
1	Wheeler, Thomas.....	Henry.....	Mute.
2	Davidson, Isaac.....	Henry.....	"
3	Davidson, William G.....	Henry.....	"
4	Wright, Elvin.....	Henry.....	"
5	Williams, Smith.....	Pickens.....	"
6	Williams, Allious.....	Jefferson.....	Blind.
7	Hughs, John.....	Pickens.....	Mute.
8	Melton, Peter.....	Perry.....	"
9	Burge, Edward.....	Hale.....	"
10	Gibson, Edward.....	Dallas.....	"
11	Gardner, James H.....	Montgomery.....	"
12	Shackelford, Frank.....	Lee.....	"
13	Daughdrille, Colin.....	Mobile.....	"
14	Wallace, Redding.....	Autauga.....	"
15	Philips, Love.....	Calhoun.....	Blind.
16	Cartwright, William.....	Montgomery.....	"
17	Driver, Jackson.....	Chilton.....	"
18	Hyder, Lewis.....	Jackson.....	Mute.
19	Roberts, Osce.....	Jefferson.....	"
20	Strauss, Isadore.....	Montgomery.....	"
21	Toney, Tenelle.....	Bullock.....	"
22	Rucker, Daniel.....	Franklin.....	"
23	Morgan, George D.....	Chambers.....	"
24	Stewart, N. B.....	Hale.....	"
25	Rhoads, Frank.....	Morgan.....	"
26	Parrish, Greene.....	Dale.....	Blind.
27	Smith, Archie.....	Mobile.....	"
28	Fari, Edward.....	Greene.....	"
29	Davis, Alice.....	Etowah.....	"
30	Banister, Martha.....	Cherokee.....	"
31	Hughs, Margaret.....	Jackson.....	"
32	Toney, Laura.....	Bullock.....	Mute.
33	Toney, Georgia.....	Bullock.....	"
34	Wakefield, Sarah J.....	Calhoun.....	"
35	Dickey, Ellen.....	Montgomery.....	"
36	Christian, Mary C.....	Perry.....	"
37	Starns, Lizzie.....	Jackson.....	"
38	Payne, Georgia.....	Tallapoosa.....	"
39	Burnett, Ella.....	Tallapoosa.....	"
40	Groom, Ella.....	Talladega.....	"
41	Parrish, Sophy.....	Dale.....	"
42	Cardinal, Cornelia.....	Montgomery.....	"
43	Prior, Charlotte.....	Talladega.....	"
44	Flemming, Fanny.....	Mobile.....	"
45	Flemming, Mattie.....	Mobile.....	"
46	Glover, Sarah.....	Greene.....	"
47	Miller, Rebecca.....	Talladega.....	"
48	McCaine, Emma.....	Clay.....	"
49	McCaine, Jennie.....	Clay.....	"

APPENDIX A.

An itemized account of the expenses of the institution, with the vouchers to sustain each item, is kept by the secretary, in obedience to the by-laws of the Board of Commissioners, and is open for inspection by the authorities of the State at any time.

The accounts are audited quarterly, and passed upon by the Board of Commissioners.

The funds of the institution are held by the treasurer of the board, who is a bonded officer, and paid out only on the written order of the president, drawn by order of the board.

The principal is required to make quarterly settlements, and all demands upon the institution are paid by him by draft, on amount, set apart by order of the board for each quarter.

The salaries are paid quarterly, at the end of each quarter, in the same manner.

B.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

INDIGENT PUPILS—HOW ADMITTED.

“Application for admission must be made to the Board of Commissioners, in writing, and must state their name, age, place of birth and present residence; how long the applicant has been a resident of the State; that he or she is deaf and dumb, or blind; that the applicant, or his or her family are unable to pay his or her board or tuition. This application must be sworn to by the applicant, or some one cognizant of the facts, and filed with the board; whereupon the board

shall, if they deem the proof sufficient, cause an order to be entered upon their record admitting said applicant."

PAY PUPILS.

Pay pupils will be charged two hundred dollars for board and tuition for school year of forty weeks.

CLOTHING FOR THE INDIGENT.

In relation to indigent pupils, the General Assembly, in 1871, passed the following act:

"In all cases where the parents of pupils sent to the institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, and the blind, are too poor to furnish them with good and sufficient clothing, or where said pupils are without parents and unable to furnish themselves with such clothing, the judge of the county court of the county from which they are sent shall certify the same to the principal, who shall procure such necessary clothing and charge the same to said county; present the account, with the vouchers, to the auditor of public accounts, who, thereupon, shall draw upon the county treasurer for the amount so charged to the county; and the said county shall annually assess and collect by tax the amount necessary to pay said order or orders; and if said county shall fail so to do, the circuit court in said county shall, on application therefor, compel the same by *mandamus*."

REPORT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

ON THE CONDITION, WORKINGS AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE ALABAMA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND, FOR THE YEARS EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE AND EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX.

The examining committee appointed by the board of trustees of the Alabama Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, consisting of a certain number of ladies and gentlemen from the town and county of Talladega, met in the parlor of the institution, June 30th, 1876, and organized by electing Ex-Gov. L. E. Parsons president, Mrs. Richard Hunley joint-president, and Rev. F. L. Ewing secretary.

The committee was then divided into two sub-committees, the first to consist of all the ladies of the committee present, the second of all the gentlemen. The duties of these committees were,

1st. To visit jointly the school-rooms and attend the various examinations of the pupils.

2d. The ladies' committee was to visit and inspect the rooms, dormitories and various departments of the female pupils, and the gentlemen's committee was to do the same with reference to the male pupils, and also inspect the entire buildings and grounds.

During the progress of the examination a special committee was appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen, clergymen of the town of Talladega, viz: Rev. Messrs. J. J. D. Renfro, J. F. Smith, J. M. Boland and F. L. Ewing, whose duty was to make out a written report in regard to the condition of the institution, which report, after the signature of the president, joint-president and secretary of the examining

committee, was to be offered for publication in all the papers of the State of Alabama favorable to the institution.

The report of the special committee is as follows:

The institution is under the control of a board of trustees appointed by the Governor, which board has elected the following officers and teachers, viz:

Dr. J. H. JOHNSON, Principal.

Mrs. J. H. JOHNSON, Teacher of Mutes.

Mr. SEABORN JOHNSON, Teacher of Mutes and Joint Superintendent of Workshop.

Mr. J. A. HOGE, Teacher of Mutes and Joint Superintendent of Workshop.

Miss M. E. TONEY, Teacher of Mutes and Assistant Matron.

Miss EMMA OMBERG, Teacher of Blind in Music.

Mr. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, Teacher of Blind.

Miss O. J. HAMILTON, Matron.

The examinations which were held were, first, of the mutes of both sexes in writing simple sentences, in geography, arithmetic, anatomy, physiology and hygiene; second, of the blind in reading with raised print, in arithmetic, and in music on the piano and singing.

These examinations were listened to and observed with deep and absorbing interest on the part of the examining committee and all present. They gave abundant evidence of great diligence and pains-taking care on the part of the various instructions. The progress on the part of the pupils was highly gratifying. And the intelligence and proficiency of some, as for instance certain of the mutes in arithmetic, anatomy and kindred subjects, and of the blind in reading, arithmetic and music, was wonderful, and afforded the highest gratification to the spectators. Then it was our great pleasure to see those unfortunate ones, who can neither hear nor speak, exhibit an intimate, and, indeed, a critical knowledge of different ones of the higher branches of science. Also was it our pleasure to see and hear those probably still more unfortunate ones, upon whose orbs the light never shines, read off with almost the ease and readiness of a person possessed of all his senses, from different books, and among them, especially, the

Word of God. Also did we hear them execute, with wonderful mastery, difficult pieces of music, both instrumental and vocal.

A visit to the workshop, which, however, on account of the hard times, is not in as successful operation as it might otherwise be, enabled us to see various specimens of the handicraft of the male pupils, such as the making of shoes, chairs, brooms, &c.

All the work exhibited was very good, while some specimens might be pronounced first class in neatness and finish.

The inspection by the different committees of the dormitories, furniture, bedding, and various departments of both sexes of the pupils, showed everything to be all that could be expected or desired. While there was no evidence of extravagance, there was perfect neatness, order and comfort.

The inspection, likewise, of the entire buildings, grounds, gas-works, cooking and laundry departments, water supply and garden, together with every feature, showing all to be watched over and looked after with a most praiseworthy interest and care.

Among the most pleasing and interesting features of the examination, were the exercises on Friday night.

These consisted of music, instrumental and vocal, speeches and recitations from the blind, together with tableaux from the mutes. An audience much too large to be held by the largest room in the building, turned out to witness the exercises. A decided and highly gratifying success was the entertainment, in the opinion of the entire audience. The music was all good. Some of the songs sung and played by the blind, were so touchingly beautiful and yet so sad as to move to tears many in the audience.

The tableaux would have done credit to any people. Some of the scenes we have never seen surpassed by any group of persons.

A peculiarly interesting part of the performances of the evening was the interpretation, by the principal, of the "sign language," of the address to the mutes. This address, of more than a half an hour in length, in which were used, more

or less, the ordinary language, illustrations, figures, &c., of public speakers, seemed to be communicated clearly, easily, and with perfect intelligibleness to the pupils gathered around.

One other important feature, recently added we believe, is that of drawing and sketching by the mutes. The specimens exhibited showed a gratifying progress here, particularly for the short time engaged, as well as in the other departments.

The boarding department, from every appearance, has a well qualified, active and efficient matron. There was evidence of pains-taking, wise and gratifying management, indicating that there, likewise, nothing is wanting for the health and comfort of the pupils.

The inspection of the financial management of the institution was pronounced, by such of the committee as were expert in such things, perfect in all that could be desired.

In the largest hall of the buildings, two religious exercises are held each Sabbath during the scholastic year. The first in the morning, consists of a lecture on some religious subject, given by the principal, who is a member of one of our churches. The second, in the afternoon, is a regular Sabbath school, taught by the teachers of the institution.

As an evidence of the impression made upon the audience by the examination, inspection and the exercises, when the speaker in closing the address of the evening announced the sentence, "You often-times hear the expression, 'the right man in the right place,' but here we have the right men and right women in the right places," there was a hearty and extensive outburst of applause.

In conclusion, the committee take pleasure in giving it as their opinion that the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, is one of which the State of Alabama may well be proud. The knowledge of its condition, management, general workings, and of the good it is and has been doing, ought to be spread all over our bounds and come to the ears of every citizen. From the census of the United States and other reliable statistics, we learn that of those unfortunate classes, the blind and the deaf and dumb, there are in our State as many

as one thousand and twelve, there being six hundred and eleven blind and four hundred and one deaf and dumb. If the knowledge of the character and workings of this admirable institution were thus spread abroad, a great many more, no doubt, of those unfortunate ones would be brought to enjoy its priceless blessings. There all the pupils are boarded and given instruction free of charge. There many if not all of those who, by reason of the loss of one or more of the senses, are a burden to themselves or to their friends, or to the public, can not only be educated, but be given trades or livelihoods whereby they can be brought out of their useless states, and can become contributors to the general productiveness and wealth of the country.

In view of these facts, we feel that not only does the institution reflect great credit upon the board of trustees, the officers and teachers, and all connected with its management, but it is a living and pleasing monument alike to our beloved commonwealth and to the humane and benevolent spirit of the age, and the civilization and Christianity of the time.

LEWIS E. PARSONS, President,
 Mrs. R. R. HUNLEY, Joint Presid't,
 J. J. D. RENFROE,
 J. M. BOLAND,
 J. F. SMITH, Special Committee.

F. L. EWING, Secretary.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Mr. President :

The joint Special committee, created in pursuance to a joint resolution of the two houses, "to visit the Alabama Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and to report back to each house all the information which might be acquired from an inspection of the internal management of said institution," have, as they conceive, discharged the duty made incumbent upon them by said resolution, and respectfully ask leave to submit the following report :

A thorough inspection has been made, extending to every department and interest connected with the institution, and developed the facts hereinafter set forth.

The institution is eligibly situated in the town of Talladega, and consists of commodious and convenient buildings, the principal one of which was erected under the auspices of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama, and used for several years as a seminary for the education of young ladies, and subsequently purchased by the State for its present use, at a cost of about sixteen thousand dollars.

When purchased by the State, the grounds were but temporarily inclosed, much neglected, and the only building then existing in a dilapidated and ruinous condition. Considerable improvements have been made since that time, and are of a very substantial character. Several acres have been added to the grounds, and the whole is now inclosed with a neat and lasting fence. The grounds have been much improved, are well cared for, and beautifully set with ornamental trees.

Since the war, a large brick building, four stories in height,

has been erected for the use of the Mechanical Department, a portion of which serves as dormitories for the boys and young men. A barn and stables commensurate with the necessities of the institution have been erected, and, barring accidents, will serve their uses for many years to come. Wells, cisterns, a dairy, gas fixtures, orchards, gardens, and the like, comprise the other improvements made upon the premises since they were purchased by the State.

A building for a kitchen and laundry department would add much to the convenience of the institution, that at present used for that purpose being an old and inferior one.

The recitation rooms, sitting rooms, dining room, amusement hall, and dormitories, are models of neatness and cleanliness, which command the admiration of every observer.

Books are regularly kept by the Principal of the institution, showing every item of expense, no matter how small; and vouchers for every sum of money paid out are kept on file, regularly numbered and so arranged as to enable any one desiring to do so to ascertain exactly for what every expenditure was made. The board of commissioners for the institution have a regular standing committee, whose duty it is, under the regulations of the board, to meet at the end of each quarter, and to examine, modify, allow, or reject each item expended for the institution. An entry of their action in the premises is made upon the books and signed by them.

These quarterly examinations enable the commissioners to have a continual insight into the internal operations of the institution, and thus to obviate any laxity of management which might ultimately lead to trouble and confusion.

The expenses of the institution have been decreased at the rate of twelve hundred dollars per annum since the last report was made by the Principal. This has been accomplished by reducing the salary of the teacher in the Blind Department from twelve hundred and fifty to six hundred dollars, that of the teacher of music from six hundred to four hundred and fifty dollars, and supplying the place of a master mechanic in the mechanical department with teachers from the intellectual department.

The total expense for the last year, as may be seen from the Principal's published report, was \$15,161 35. Of this sum, \$2,446 47 were expended in the construction of permanent and valuable improvements, and in the purchase of clothing for pupils. That considerable sums of money have been expended in making improvements of various kinds in and about the premises, there can be no question ; but an inspection of the institution, as a whole, forces the conviction upon the mind that although the arrangements are commodious and convenient, and have evidently been made at considerable cost, yet nothing could be spared without marring the utility and symmetry of the general order and arrangement. The per capita expense, as may be seen by dividing \$13,714 88, the amount expended aside from improvements during the last year, by 48—the number of pupils in attendance—will be seen to be \$285 72.

This amount appears to be large, but when it is remembered that with it the pupil is furnished with facilities for the acquirement of knowledge equal to those of any school of like kind in the country, with that kind and humane treatment and watch-care which his helpless condition so much demands, and also with comfortable board and lodging, including medical attention and nursing in time of sickness, it will be evident that the expenses are no more than commensurate with the necessities which surround the pupil. It may not be amiss to state in this connection, that if the number of pupils are increased three fold, while it would increase the aggregate expenses, it would lessen the per capita expenses at least thirty-three per cent., because no additional outlay would have to be made to accommodate such a number, except, perhaps, in the single items of food and clothing.

Reference to the reports of many Institutions of like kind discloses the fact that their per capita expense ranges from that of California, which is four hundred and sixty dollars, for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, to that of Ohio, which is two hundred and sixteen dollars for the Deaf and Dumb alone. That of New York is three hundred and fifty-two dollars for the blind alone ; and that of Maryland, for the

year 1875, was two hundred and sixty-five dollars for the deaf and dumb alone. Expenses of Alabama's Institution are much increased by furnishing equal facilities to both the deaf and dumb and the blind. In fact, no institution which accommodates both classes of these unfortunates, does so at a less expense than our own, while in but two or three institutions in the Union is the expense less than in our own, and in those the accommodations are for the deaf and dumb only.

The attainments of the pupils in the acquirement of a knowledge of those branches of education best suited to their condition, are truly astonishing. No one can witness an examination of the several classes without being struck with the proficiency made by each, and experiencing a feeling of much gratification.

The mechanical department is superintended by two of the teachers of the intellectual department, thus avoiding the employment of a practical mechanic. In this department, the boys are taught lessons of industry and a useful trade, by means of which they can sustain themselves comfortably, and thus avoid becoming a burthen to their friends or the community. In this respect, the girls are not neglected, but are instructed in those habits of industry which pertain to a high order of domestic life.

The Principal of the Institution, Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, is devoted to its interests, and in addition to his duties as Principal, he discharges those of Secretary and Book-keeper of the Board of Commissioners, Steward and Physician, thus avoiding expenses which are incurred in every such institution. His object seems to be to elevate, fit and qualify for the duties of useful citizenship, the unfortunate children placed in his care.

In this Institution, the State has established, and thus far maintained, a noble and praiseworthy charity—a benefit, the value of which cannot be estimated in mere dollars and cents. Without this benefit, a pall of darkness hangs over their minds through life, but with it, the dark chambers of the mind are unlocked, the floods of light and knowledge suffered

to enter, thus changing the whole life from that of a sad and disconsolate to that of a bouyant and happy one.

The appearance of pain and ignorant diffidence, once upon the face, gives way to a beaming countenance, indicative of intellectual enjoyments.

The number of pupils should be largely increased. No one of the unfortunate classes named, should remain longer without the benefits resulting from the course of training pursued in this Institution.

Many are no doubt kept away by a want of knowledge upon the part of their friends of the benefits and general treatment received by the pupil. To all such we would say, the conduct of the Principal towards the pupils is that of a parent who fully appreciates the misfortunes of his children, and whose chief object is the amelioration of their condition.

If the General Assembly were, by resolution or otherwise, to authorize the Board of Commissioners to employ an agent to seek out the children who come within the purview of this charity, it would, in the opinion of your committee, be an act in the interest of humanity.

Trusting that the number of pupils may be largely increased, your committee cannot recommend a reduction of the annual appropriation for the Institution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. CARMICHAEL,
NICH. STALLWORTH,
M. J. GREENE,
Joint Committee.

